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METHODIST

CATECHISMS:

CONTAINING A

SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE AND BIBLE HISTORY.

No. I.

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Methodist Church (Canada)

Methodist Catechisms.

No. I.

FOR CHILDREN OF TENDER YEARS.

SECTION 1.—OF GOD.

1. *Who made you?*

God.

2. *Who is God?*

God is our Father in heaven.

3. *What is God?*

God is a Spirit, One that always was and always will be.

4. *Where is God?*

God is everywhere.

5. *What can God do?*

God can do whatever He will.

6. *Does God know all things?*

Yes, God knows all things; every thought in man's heart, every word, and every action.

7. *Will He call us to account for all we think and do?*

At the last day God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.

8. *Does God love you?*

Yes, God loves everything which He has made.

9. *What has God made?*

God made everything in heaven and earth; and, last of all, He made man.

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SEC. 2.—OF THE CREATION OF MAN.

1. *How did God make man?*

God made the body of man out of the dust of the earth.

2. *Did his soul come from the dust?*

No. for the Lord God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

3. *Why did God make man?*

God made man that he might know Him and love Him and serve Him, and be happy with Him for ever.

4. *Where did God put the first man and woman?*

God put the first man and woman in the garden of Eden.

5. *In whose image was man created?*

Man was created in the image or likeness of God.

6. *How was man made like God?*

His soul was created like God: immortal, holy, and happy.

SEC. 3.—OF THE FALL OF MAN.

1. *Did our first parents continue holy and happy?*

No: they sinned against God, and fell into misery.

2. *What is sin?*

Sin is not obeying the commands of God.

3. *What command did God give to our first parents in the garden of Eden?*

He commanded them not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

4. *Did they keep this command?*

No: they did eat of the tree.

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5. *What evil did they bring upon themselves thereby?*

They lost the favour of God, were condemned to pain and death, and were driven out of the garden.

6. *Did their sin hurt any besides themselves?*

Yes: their sin hurt all mankind.

7. *How did it hurt them?*

By causing them to be born in sin, so that they also suffer pain and death.

8. *What do you mean by being born in sin?*

We are all born self-willed, and, but for the grace of God, inclined only to evil.

9. *May we all hope for this grace?*

Yes, through the Saviour who was promised when our first parents fell into sin.

Sec. 4.—OF THE SALVATION OF MAN.

1. *How may we be saved from sin?*

Only through Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God.

2. *What did our Lord Jesus Christ do to save us?*

He was made man, suffered death in our stead, rose again from the dead, and went up into heaven.

3. *What do you mean by being saved?*

Through what Jesus Christ has done for us, we may obtain forgiveness of sin, and holiness, and heaven.

4. *But will He save all mankind?*

We can be saved only by repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. *What is it to repent?*

To repent is to be sorry for my sins, to confess and turn from them, and to seek forgiveness from God.

6. *What is it to believe in Jesus Christ?*
To believe in Jesus Christ is to receive His words, and to trust in Him alone for salvation.

7. *Can you do all this of yourself?*
I cannot repent and believe of myself; but God will help me by His Holy Spirit, if I ask it of Him.

8. *What is the state of those who do not forsake their sins and believe in Jesus Christ?*
The wrath of God abideth on them.

9. *Why does not God take away the wicked at once?*
He gives sinners time to repent.

10. *What will become of those who do not repent?*
After death they will be cast out of God's presence forever.

Sec. 5.—OF JUDGMENT AND THE FUTURE STATE.

1. *Will all men be judged hereafter?*
Yes, we must all be judged at the last day.

2. *Who will be the Judge of all men?*
Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, will be the Judge of all men.

3. *What will become of the wicked after the day of judgment?*
They shall go away into everlasting punishment.

4. *Where will the wicked be punished?*
In hell.

5. *What will become of the righteous after death?*
The righteous shall go into everlasting life.

6. *Where will the righteous enjoy this life?*
In heaven.

7. *What sort of a place is heaven?*

Heaven is a place of light and glory.

8. *How will good men live there?*

Good men will live in heaven in perfect joy forever.

9. *Why will their joy be perfect?*

Because they will be always with the Lord.

10. *Will they suffer nothing there?*

Good men will suffer nothing in heaven: they will have no want nor pain nor sin.

11. *What sort of bodies will they have?*

They will have bodies such as can never die, made like the glorious body of Jesus Christ.

12. *How will they be employed?*

In praising and serving God.

13. *In what manner will they serve God in heaven?*

We cannot tell how they will serve Him until we go there.

14. *What must you be, if you would go to this glorious and happy place?*

That I may go to heaven I must be holy in heart and life.

Sec. 6.—OF RELIGION.

1. *What is religion?*

Religion is holiness in heart and life.

2. *What is it to be holy in heart?*

To be holy in heart is to be changed by the Holy Spirit, so as to be saved from sin and to love God.

3. *What is it to be holy in life?*

To be holy in life is to do my duty to God and man, according to God's holy word.

4. *What is your duty to God?*

My duty to God is to worship Him, to love Him, and to keep His commandments.

5. *What is your duty to man?*

My duty to man is to honour and obey my parents, to show respect to those above me, to speak the truth always, and to be just and loving to all.

6. *How can you do this?*

I can do my duty to God and man only by the grace of God.

7. *What is this grace?*

The grace of God is the power of the Holy Ghost, felt in our hearts, enabling us to do what otherwise we could not do.

8. *How are we to seek the grace of God?*

We must seek the grace of God by earnest prayer in private and in the house of God.

9. *Through whom do we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit?*

Only through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sec. 7.—OF JESUS CHRIST AND LITTLE CHILDREN.

1. *Does the Saviour care for children*

Yes: for He said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not."

2. *Was He once a child Himself?*

Yes, and we read about His infancy in the gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke.

3. *Do we know anything about the Saviour when He was growing up?*

St. Luke tells us that when He was twelve years old He was found in the temple at Jerusalem.

4. *How was He a pattern to children?*

We read that He grew in wisdom, and was subject to His parents.

5. *May children have the blessing of the Lord Jesus?*

When children were brought to Him, He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

6. *Does the Lord Jesus listen to children?*

He was pleased with the children who cried Hosanna in the temple.

7. *May children know the Scriptures?*

Yes: for Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures from a child.

8. *What did the Lord say about children before He went up to heaven?*

He said to St. Peter, "Feed My lambs."

9. *May children receive the Holy Ghost?*

Yes: for God has promised to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh, and His blessing upon the offspring of His people.

10. *By what sign is it shown that the Lord is the Saviour of children?*

Children are baptised "into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

11. *What is "the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?"*

The name of One God in Three Persons, blessed for evermore.

12. *How must you remember your baptism?*

By seeking grace that I may become a true Christian, and serve God and my Saviour all the days of my life.

Sec. 8.—THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE BELIEF, AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

1. *Let me hear you repeat the Lord's prayer.*

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

2. *Rehearse the articles of your belief.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Chirst His only Son our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the righ hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

3. *Which are the Ten Commandments?*

The same which God spake in the twentieth chapter of Exodus, saying:—

I. I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a

jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

IV. Remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath-day and hallowed it.

V. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

APPENDIX.

A SHORT CATECHISM OF SCRIPTURE NAMES.

OLD TESTAMENT.

Who was Adam?

The first man that God made, and the father of us all.

2. *Who was Eve?*

The first woman, and the mother of us all.

3. *Who was Cain?*

Adam's eldest son, who killed his brother.

4. *Who was Abel?*

Cain's righteous brother, whom he hated.

5. *Who was Enoch?*

A man who pleased God, and who was taken up to heaven without dying.

6. *Who was Noah?*

That good man who was saved in the ark when the world was drowned.

7. *Who was Abraham?*

The pattern of believers, and the friend of God.

8. *Who was Isaac?*

Abraham's son according to God's promise.

9. *Who was Jacob?*

Isaac's younger son, whose name was changed to Israel.

10. *Who was Joseph?*

Jacob's beloved son, whom his brothers hated and sold for a slave.

11. *Who were the Twelve Patriarchs?*

The twelve sons of Jacob, and the fathers of the people of Israel.

12. *Who was Pharaoh?*

The cruel king of Egypt, who refused to let God's people go, and was drowned in the Red Sea, with his army.

13. *Who was Moses?*

The deliverer and lawgiver of the children of Israel, who led them through the wilderness.

14. *Who was Aaron?*

The brother of Moses, and the first high priest of Israel.

15. *Who were the Priests?*

Those who were set apart to offer sacrifices to God, and who taught His laws to men.

16. *Who was Joshua*

The leader of the children of Israel, who brought them into the Promised Land after the death of Moses.

17. *Who were the Prophets?*

Holy men whom God taught to foretell things to come, and to make known His mind to the world.

18. *Who was Samuel?*

The prophet who was called by the Lord when he was a little child.

19. *Who was David?*

The sweet psalmist of Israel, who was raised from a shepherd to be king.

20. *Who was Absalom?*

David's wicked son, who rebelled against his father, and was killed as he hung on a tree.

21. *Who was Solomon?*

David's son, the wisest of men, and the king who built the temple.

22. *Who was Elijah*

The prophet who was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire.

23. *Who was Daniel?*

The prophet who, because he would not give up praying to God, was cast into a den of lions; and who was preserved unhurt.

24. *Who were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?*

Three young Israelites who, because they would not worship an image, were cast into a fiery furnace, but yet were not burned.

NEW TESTAMENT.

1. *Who was the Virgin Mary?*

The mother of JESUS.

2. *Who were the Jews?*

The children of Israel, whom God chose for His own people.

3. *Who were the Gentiles?*

All nations besides the Jews.

4. *Who was Cæsar Augustus?*

The Emperor of Rome at the time when our Lord was born.

5. *Who was Herod the king?*

The King of Judæa, who killed the young children in Bethlehem, hoping to kill the Christ.

6. *Who was John the Baptist?*

The prophet who told the Jews that the Christ was come.

7. *Who was Herod the tetrarch?*

The ruler of Galilee, who cut off John the Baptist's head.

8. *Who were the disciples of Jesus Christ?*

All who learned of Him as their Master.

9. *Who was Lazarus?*

One whom Jesus loved, and raised to life when he had been dead four days.

10. *Who was Martha?*

The sister of Lazarus, who was too much troubled in making a feast for the Lord.

11. *Who was Mary, the sister of Martha?*

The woman that chose the good part, and sat at the feet of Jesus, and heard His word.

12. *Who were the apostles?*

Those twelve disciples whom Christ chose to be the first preachers of His gospel and rulers of His church.

13. *Who was Simon Peter?*

The apostle whom our Lord blessed for His good confession; who afterwards denied his Lord, wept bitterly, and was forgiven; and who preached the first sermon on the day of Pentecost.

14. *Who was the apostle John?*

The disciple whom Jesus loved, and who leaned on His bosom at the Last Supper.

15. *Who was St. Thomas?*

An apostle, who at first did not believe that the Lord had risen.

16. *Who was Judas?*

The wicked apostle, who betrayed the Lord with a kiss.

17. *Who was Caiaphas?*

The high priest who condemned Christ.

18. *Who was Pontius Pilate?*

The governor of Judæa, who delivered up Jesus to be crucified.

19. *Who was Joseph of Arimathæa?*

A rich man who buried Jesus in his own tomb.

20. *Who were the Four Evangelists?*

St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John; who wrote the Four Gospels.

21. *Who were Ananias and Sapphira?*

A man and his wife who were struck dead for lying unto the Holy Spirit.

22. *Who was St. Stephen?*

The first who was put to death for Christ's sake.

23. *Who was St. Paul?*

The apostle who was first a persecutor, but afterwards the great preacher of the gospel to the Gentiles.

24. *Who was Dorcas?*

A good woman who made clothes for the poor, and who was raised from death.

25. *Who was Cornelius?*

A devout Gentile soldier, to whom St. Peter was sent to preach the gospel.

26. *Who was Lydia?*

A devout woman whose heart the Lord opened when St. Paul preached.

27. *Who was Apollos?*

An eloquent teacher, whom Priscilla and Aquila instructed in the Christian faith.

28. *Who was Timothy?*

A young companion and helper of St. Paul.

29. *Who was Titus?*

Another companion of St. Paul, who was a minister in the island of Crete.

PRAYERS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

Note: *As soon as the Children begin to learn these Catechisms, they should also learn the following Prayers, concluding each with the Lord's Prayer.*

THE INFANT'S OR YOUNG CHILD'S MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Maker of every thing in heaven and earth: The darkness goes away, and the daylight comes, at Thy command: Thou art good, and Thou doest good continually.

I thank Thee that Thou hast taken care of me this night, and that I am alive and well this morning.

Save me, O God, from evil all this day long; and may I love and serve Thee for ever for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.

Note: The word *Amen* means that I believe all that I speak, and that I desire from my heart all that I pray for with my lips.

Note: *When the Child is five or six years old, he may add the following to his Morning Prayer:—*

Give me every good thing which I need for my body and soul: help me by Thy Holy Spirit to do Thy will: make me always afraid to offend Thee, and let me live and die in Thy favour.

Hear the prayer of a child, O Lord, and pardon all my sins, because Thy beloved Son died once on earth for sinful creatures, though He never sinned Himself, and now He lives in heaven to pray for them and save them: may His name be praised for ever and ever. Amen.

THE INFANT'S OR YOUNG CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

O LORD GOD, who knowest all things, Thou seest me by night as well as by day.

I pray Thee, for Christ's sake, forgive me what I have done amiss this day, and keep me safe all the night while I am asleep.

I desire to lie down under Thy care, and to abide for ever under Thy blessing; for Thou art the God of all

power and of everlasting mercy. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Note: *When the Child is five or six years old, he may add the following to his Evening Prayer:—*

Bless all my friends* as well as myself; do good to them at all times and in all places, and help me always to serve them in love.

And when I have done Thy will here, by Thy grace helping me, and have enjoyed Thy blessings on earth, then give my soul a place in heaven, that I may there dwell with Thee, and with Thy Son Jesus Christ: for heaven and earth, and all things in them, are Thine for ever and ever. Hear me, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.

THE YOUNG CHILD'S PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY, TO BE ADDED TO THE MORNING PRAYER.

SUFFER me not, O Lord, to waste this Thy day in sin and folly; but let me worship Thee with much delight. Teach me to know more of Thee, and to serve Thee better than ever I have done before, that I may be made fit to dwell in heaven, where Thy worship and service will be everlasting: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE YOUNG CHILD'S PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY, TO BE ADDED TO THE EVENING PRAYER.

O MOST gracious God, let me never forget the truths that I have heard out of Thy word this day. Let them abide in my heart so as to amend my life. May I so profit that I may be able to give a good account of them to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, when He shall come to judge the world at the last day: for Whose sake I ask all blessings, and to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

* Here the Child may mention Father and Mother, and other relations.

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